

Dressage NSW Inc Annual General Meeting – Minutes

Held at Windsor Bowling Club

Tuesday, 8 December 2015

Meeting opened at 7.00pm

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present

Toni Venhaus	Suzanne Doyle	Tracey Lesslie	Earle Olaisen
Lauren James	Jan Geary	Judy Wilson	Gail Benson
Sue Cunningham	Denise Rogan	Beth Turner	Helen Lawson
Michelle Becchio	Vicki Newham	Kathy Shelley	Bruce Farrar
Samantha Farrar	Helen Zimic	Jocelyn West	Jenny Carroll

2. Apologies (*Proxies received)

Franz Venhaus*	Pamela Bice*	Prue Spurrett*	Jule Manolas*
Cathie Drury-Klein	John Geary*		

As Prue Spurrett was an apology for the meeting, Helen Lawson chaired the meeting.

3. Confirmation of the Annual General Meeting Minutes, 9 December 2014

Motion: That the minutes be accepted as correct.

Moved: Toni Venhaus

Seconded: Michelle Becchio

Motion Carried

4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. President's Report

Welcome to our 2015 DNSW AGM and my apologies for my absence tonight – the first AGM I have missed since joining the Committee as Metropolitan delegate.

The Business Planning session kick started the year and gave us several priority areas which we've implemented to various degrees throughout 2015:

Financial Stability, Rider Development and Performance, Clarendon/AOR/Changing the Culture & Focus, Judges seminars, Succession Planning, State Championships, Digitalisation of Centreline Content and State AOR Leaderboard.

I think we can safely say that one of our main success stories has been the state-wide Amateur Owner Rider Leaderboard, encouraging more involvement from our members no matter where they compete. I only wish it had been in when I was riding!

The highlight of our year is always the Sydney CDI3*. 2015 was judged as "the Best Sydney CDI ever" with fine weather, positive vibes from January until the close of competition, increased spectator numbers across all days (+24%), happy sponsors and exhibitors, more horses than ever and a general buzz in the air. New initiatives this year included a dedicated YouTube Channel, Instagram site and Live Steaming on multiple arenas on all days - and we made a profit. Congratulations to Event Director Toni Venhaus. It's an honour to be on her team for the Sydney CDI 3* and we also recognise here the commitment and work Toni does with the day-to-day admin duties of an Honorary Secretary. It is a full time job and thank you Toni, for keeping us on track on all issues.

Supporting Toni and Committee is our Administration Secretary Tracey Lesslie, whose help and assistance during a busy year is very much appreciated. Thank you Tracey.

Again our membership has well and truly had value for money out of their committee this year. One of the biggest issues was the finalising of a Licence Agreement with Hawkesbury District Agricultural Society. It took considerable negotiation to sign off on and we very much acknowledge and thank Andrea Beatty and her associates for their guidance throughout the whole process – it started in January and was signed off early

November.

Support from Equestrian NSW has enabled us to present a full programme for 2015, including our 3rd Club Forum. We have 58 affiliated clubs and whilst attendance was down a little this year, the content and feedback was excellent. Our thanks go to Louise Cairns for another successful Forum and our thanks also for Louise's time as Central Coast/Hunter delegate.

Likewise, the successful Stewards Course held in August and conducted by Cathie Drury-Klein and Trevor Klein attracted 23 people greatly increasing the number of stewards on call for events.

Despite a protracted pregnancy, our DNSW Squad programme for 2016 is out there and we aim to deliver good value in both training and competition support. At the end of 2016 we will review the programme with feedback from our riders and do any necessary tweaking. We recognise and thank Jenny Carroll's long term guidance of the previous squad programme.

Succession Planning has at least one tick in the box whilst the digitalisation of Centreline is still on the agenda.

On the judging scene, Jan Geary had a particularly busy year with 15 Judges Workshops/Seminars held statewide in 2015, including a benchmark set with the Lilo Fore CDI Seminar, which over 125 people attended.

Judging issues will continue to dominate 2016 – especially getting more judges through the system across all levels. We have a programme for 2016, which hopefully will entice more people from our regions by assisting in the expense and logistics of upgrading.

Thank you to Jan and her team, especially noting July Ely Jones for her ongoing guidance of our entry-level judges and Sue Cunningham for her overseeing our Para Equestrian programme.

On any weekend there can be up to 12 Dressage events running somewhere in NSW. Yes, demand outstrips supply at the moment but the calendar shows it's the club scene that underpins the sport and another of our successes is the Regional Dressage Festival, which continues to gain momentum.

The 2015 NSW Championships saw the highest number of horses ever entered for a State Championship with the inclusion of the Adult Amateur Owner Rider (AOR) classes for the first time. Pony and Para-Equestrian classes were also held alongside Open classes with 220 riders competing on 270 horses, in a total of over 400 classes over four days of competition. Congratulations to Helen Batson, Michelle Becchio and all their support team of Committee members. The friendly, positive vibe, increased number of regional competitors, enthusiasm of the army of volunteers and great weather combined to make it one of the most successful Championships in recent years.

The Clarendon Winter Festival has likewise become a feature on our calendar as have the Protocol days now offered as part of our monthly calendar. All in all we conducted 10 events at Clarendon in 2015 and Congratulations to Kathy Shelley, Gail Benson and our Grounds Sub Committee for maintaining consistent ground quality for competition and taking care of members on the day. Likewise we value Karen Lever's expertise as Competition Secretary and thank her for the assistance she gives our Clarendon riders, especially the 'newbies'. Husband Graeme also figures in our thanks for the support and technical back up he provides to Karen.

Our thanks also to Equestrian NSW, especially CEO Bruce Farrar, for their support throughout the year, both financially but also when needed on National issues such as the Hendra ByLaw which directly impacted on the disciplines.

NSW is the only state to have Regional Delegates and they are integral to Committee. Unfortunately we are down 2 delegates with the resignation of Robyn Targa and Louise Cairns but we welcomed Jule Manolas and we thank Robyn, Louise and all our delegates for their time and commitment.

However we also welcomed a new co-opted member of Committee - Pamela Bice, whose experience with Pony Dressage is giving us great value and understanding.

Suzanne Doyle continues the tradition of DNSW Treasurers in keeping a tight rein on our finances and ensuring we continue to build our financial base so as to best serve our members. Suzanne was also integral in the Licence Agreement negotiations and for someone with the responsibility of a full time executive job we are lucky to have her expertise and communication skills. Thank you Suzanne, you are doing a great job.

Our Rider's representative Denise Rogan continues to do the best job in liaising with our riders and as we've

seen throughout the year – no question is too trivial although I suspect there's a few that Denise that has spared the Committee with. Denise, thank you, it's a delight to have you on our Committee.

We are in for a big year in 2016 with assured funding from ENSW enabling us to put new projects in place and inject more support into others. It's an Olympic year for our elite riders but our clubs face many challenges to maintain viability. Ultimately, it's all about the horse and the rider and our job is simply to support their goals and aspirations and give them the best representation at National level.

It has been a pleasure to work with you all and an honour to be President of NSW - I really would not have missed a minute of it and I look forward to handing over the role and supporting the new President.

My final thanks to my husband John – he has been the best stalwart and most patient and supportive partner over the years.

Best Wishes for 2016 and a Merry Christmas to all.

Prue Spurrett

Helen Lawson requested that on behalf of the members and committee of DNSW, a huge thanks is to go to Prue Spurrett for her efforts over the last ten years. Her leadership and guidance over her time as President has been invaluable and is deeply appreciated.

6. Honorary Secretary's Report

The Committee has not been idle in 2015.

Here are some of the achievements and areas, in which we have been busy:

- Negotiated a 10-year agreement for our grounds at Clarendon with the Hawkesbury District Agricultural Association;
- Established a state-wide Adult Amateur Owner Rider Award system;
- Held a Club Forum for affiliated Clubs;
- Supported regional Clubs through the Regional Dressage Festival series of events;
- Worked closely with Equestrian NSW to develop and revise the NSW High Performance Squad program;
- Provided educational seminars and workshops for judges as well as exams at all levels;
- Provided financial assistance to Clubs to conduct regional seminars;

Through our subcommittees, DNSW conducted regular dressage events at Clarendon, the NSW Young Rider Championships, the State Dressage Championship and the Sydney CDI. DNSW decided to take a break this year from running the "Nationals". The event was held under the umbrella of Equestrian NSW, however, many members of our Committee were involved as Volunteers and did an excellent job.

Our Committee has remained the same since the 2014 AGM with two co-opted members re-appointed after the AGM in December 2014, Judy Wilson assisting our Treasurer with the accounts and Denise Rogan as the NSW Riders' representative. Pamela Bice joined the Committee in August 2015 as a co-opted member representing Ponies. Louise Cairns, Area Delegate for the Hunter/Central Coast region, resigned in July this year and the position remains vacant.

Robyn Targa, Delegate for the Southern Highlights and South Coast resigned in November 2015. Both Louise and Robyn did a splendid job representing the Clubs.

Twelve committee meetings (including a planning meeting) were held since the last AGM. A summary of attendance is attached for your reference.

The number of Official/Participation Dressage events (not days) including Championships held in NSW in 2015 was 195, a slight increase on the previous year (185 in 2014, 198 in 2013). In addition, Protocol, Training and restricted Member days were held by most Clubs.

DNSW scheduled 10 events at Clarendon in 2015 with a total of 24 days of competition (compared to 21 days in 2014). In addition to the regular Clarendon events, Training and Protocol days were held. Protocol days are growing in popularity with most events offering Protocol competitions the day before each event.

The members of the Clarendon Sub-Committee along with Karen Lever (Clarendon Events Secretary) do a wonderful job ensuring all who attend enjoy the events.

The DNSW Regional Dressage Festival series continued this year with six events being held throughout the regional areas. Financial support from Equestrian NSW combined with funding from Dressage NSW allowed us to contribute \$1,000 to each event, and we provided other types of promotional support in Centreline, our website and Facebook.

The feedback has been positive and we look forward to continuing the series next year.

Our membership numbers have remained stable in the last 12 months. The introduction of the state-wide Adult Amateur Owner rider division has had little impact on our membership numbers.

On the other hand, we have maintained our membership numbers, which is a good sign. A copy of the membership history is included with the Agenda handout.

Our website continues to be popular but it is difficult to compare history due to the new platform.

- In the last 12 months (Oct 2014-Oct 2015) we had 57,070 users and 377,600 page views. The peak month was during the National Championships (8,660 users -74,444 page views), followed by the State Championships (8,660 users - 33,066 page views). The Sydney CDI has its own website and user data.

The number of our followers on Facebook has increased by 800 (approx. 15%) to 5,350. Twitter has also increased by 11% to 2130 followers.

Centreline remains popular with members but pure subscriber levels continue to fall. In September Wendy Calabro took over as Editor of Centreline and is doing a super job and putting her stamp on the publication.

We currently have 148 EA-accredited Dressage Judges in NSW compared to 169 around the same time last year. 2015 was a re-accreditation year for judges, and we often see a decline in numbers in these years. Seven judges have taken leave of absence for a period and are expected to return to the list and around 10 Judges resigned in the last 12 months.

The Committee is very aware that we need to get more judges. Through the Judges Sub-Committee we will be working on strategies to get more judges into the system and to retain and support them.

DNSW conducted seven Seminars / Workshops across all levels in 2015. Seminars were also held in regional areas at Young, Taree, Bega, Grafton and Tamworth.

A Stewards Seminar was held in August at Clarendon with more planned in the regional areas in 2016.

NSW riders continue to perform well at a State and National level and at CDIs held around Australia. At the recent 2015 Saddleworld Australian Championships, NSW riders were dominant winning most of the Champion titles and NSW won both the EA and FEI Teams competitions.

Our Annual Awards and Performance Medals continue to represent a significant achievement for our members. At the Annual Awards Night, Awards were presented for the first time to the highest Adult Amateur Owner Riders at each level. In addition, a Clarendon Amateur Owner/Rider and Young Rider Leaderboard recognised winners from Preliminary level.

128 Performance Medals were presented this year, compared to 105 in 2014. 10 Gold (9 in 2014), 43 Silver (19 in 2014) and 75 Bronze (77 in 2014).

In the last three months we have been working closely with Equestrian NSW to deliver additional financial support for officials and Clubs. Thank you to Bruce Farrar and the EQ NSW Board for the financial support in the past and the opportunities provided for dressage in 2016.

In line with our Constitution, four committee positions are declared vacant to be filled at the AGM. Three nominations were received for the 2016-2018 term (Gail Benson, Helen Lawson and Prue Spurrett) leaving one vacancy and nominations will be called from the floor this evening.

I would like to thank Tracey Lesslie, our Admin Secretary, and Karen Lever, our Clarendon Events Secretary, for the great job they do in their respective roles as well as putting in extra hours on a voluntary basis.

Thank you to all Committee members and for your contribution and support during the year.

This sport like many others is possible because of the huge effort put in by Club Committees and Volunteers. They are often overlooked but their efforts are appreciated. Thank You!

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the contribution of outgoing President, Prue Spurrett, who has been

President of DNSW since 2003. Her passion for the sport is evident and her commitment to the role has been commendable. Thank you, Prue.

Toni Venhaus,
Honorary Secretary, Dressage NSW

Attached to meeting hand-out:

- Summary of Committee members attendance at Committee meetings & Summary of membership

Motion: That the Secretary's report be accepted.

Moved: Helen Lawson

Seconded: Gail Benson

Motion Carried

7. Honorary Treasurer's Reports

As part of the reading provided here this evening you will find for your information the Audited Financial Report for Dressage NSW for the year ending 30 June 2015. I will refer to selected parts of this document for the purposes of this report.

This first page provides a snapshot of the financial activities of Dressage NSW for the financial year 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015. It is a pleasing position to report that Dressage NSW made a profit of \$37,382 in the 2014-15 financial year – the first profit in several years.

This is a significant turn-around from the last 3 years where Dressage NSW made losses in the order of - \$13,885 in 2013-14, -\$37,205 in 2012-13 and -\$57,695 in 2011-12. In summary, turning to page 2 shows the total equity for Dressage NSW in 2015 is standing at \$334,330, up from \$296,948 in 2014.

This strong profit position comes as a result of the committee's focus over the last 3 years on increasing revenue opportunities and importantly, reducing expenditure. While this is a good result, fiscal responsibility needs to be maintained in the coming years to ensure Dressage NSW is in a solid position to fund the key activities as outlined in the business plan that aim to promote the sport of Dressage.

More detail

The overall position this financial year is even stronger when considering the declining asset values that need to be compensated for before posting the net result.

Again looking at page 2 we see that the current assets have increased by \$56,292, up from \$246,507 the year before. This is set against the decline in value of the non-current assets by \$16,122, down from \$82,966 the previous year. This decline in non-current asset value is driven by depreciation and amortisation of property, plant and equipment, with the Clarendon arena works from the 2012 financial year accounting for most of this. The exact figures can be found on page 7 of the report.

It should be noted that the amortisation of the Clarendon arenas (at approximately \$12,919 a year) will continue for another 5 years, meaning that we need to make over \$13,000 each year in order to break even.

Revenue and expenses

The income and expenditure statements found on page 13 and 14 shows the picture for the 2015 financial year. In summary, gross revenue is up \$65,215 on the previous year, or about 7.2%, while expenditure only grew by 2% or about \$13,000 for the year.

Dressage NSW does rely on support from Equestrian NSW and Equestrian Australia to fund various activities including State and National Championships, the Sydney CDI, judge education, the regional forum and training of officials.

We also rely on income generated from events such as Clarendon, Championship events and the Sydney CDI to support our rider activities, judge education and rider support.

As outlined last year, re-energising the Clarendon event was a concerted focus for the Clarendon sub-committee and they have had much success with the Winter Festival now being a huge attraction in the calendar as well as the high rates of participation in the amateur owner rider division.

The 2014 National Dressage Championships broke even, while the 2014 National Championships and the 2015 CDI each made profits, providing a 5% and 4% return on investment respectively.

Expenditure has been managed well in the 2015 year, but next year may be more difficult as the Clarendon Licencing agreement with Hawkesbury District Agricultural Association will see an increase in running costs, as well as the high cost of bringing international judges to our major championships given the low value of the Australian dollar against major international currencies.

That said, we are entering a new chapter with our funding arrangements with Equestrian NSW for the 2016 year. We will now have more certainty about what activities can be supported with confidence and more conviction so as to grow our sport in NSW over the coming years.

I'd like to take the opportunity to thank Judy Wilson and Helen Lawson, both former Treasurers of DNSW, for their support in this first year as Treasurer, and the great work the Committee did to set this year up for success.

Dr Suzanne Doyle
Honorary Treasurer

Motion: That the Treasurers report be accepted

Moved: Suzanne Doyle **Seconded:** Sue Cunningham

Motion accepted

8. Appointment of Auditor

Motion: **a) (page 10) that the committee resolves that financial report presents fairly the financial position of Dressage NSW Incorporated as at June 30 2015 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, mandatory professional reporting requirements and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board**

b) at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Dressage NSW Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

Moved: Suzanne Doyle **Seconded:** Judy Wilson

Motion Carried.

The Treasurer advised the meeting that our current auditor will no longer be fulfilling an auditing role. Suzanne Doyle requested that the members allow the Committee to go through a tender process before appointing a new auditor.

Motion: To allow the committee to follow a tender process to a new auditor.

Moved: Suzanne Doyle **Seconded:** Michelle Becchio

Motion Carried.

9. Committee Elections

Four positions on the Committee were declared vacant.

Three nominations were received by the due date (Prue Spurrett, Gail Benson, Helen Lawson),

Beth Turner did not re-nominate for the Committee and one positions remains vacant. The Committee thanked Beth for her contribution during the time on the Committee.

Nominations for the vacant position were called for from the floor.

Toni Venhaus nominated Jocelyn West (seconded by Vicki Newham) and as no other nominations were received Jocelyn West was elected to the committee.

Confirmation of the 2016 Committee: Gail Benson, Kathy Shelley, Jan Geary, Helen Lawson, Prue Spurrett, Toni Venhaus, Sue Cunningham, Earle Olaisen, Michelle Becchio, Jocelyn West, Vicki Newham, Suzanne Doyle.

10. General Business

There was no General Business.

Close of Meeting

The meeting was declared closed at 7.30 pm

DNSW Committee Meeting Attendance Record

December 2014 to November 2015

	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15	Apr-15	May-15	Jun-15	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15
<i>Planning</i>												
Elected Committee												
<i>Mtg</i>												
Gail Benson	Ap	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Michelle Becchio	A	Ap	Ap		Ap	Ap	A	A	A	A	Ap	
Sue Cunningham	Ap	Ap	A	A	Ap	A	A	A	A	A	Ap	A
Suzanne Doyle	Ap	A	A	A	Ap	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Jan Geary	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	Ap	A	A
Helen Lawson	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	Ap	A	A	A
Vicki Newham	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	Ap	A	A
Earle Olaisen	Ap	A	A	Ap	A	A	Ap	Ap	A	Ap	A	Ap
Kathy Shelley	A	A	A	A	A	Ap	A	A	Ap	A	A	A
Prue Spurrett	A	A	A	A	Ap	A	Ap	A	Ap	A	Ap	A
Beth Turner	A		A	Ap		Ap	A	Ap	Ap	Ap	Ap	
Toni Venhaus	A	A	A	A	A	A	Ap	A	A	A	A	A
Co-opted members												
Judy Wilson	A	A	A	Ap	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	Ap
Denise Rogan	A	A	Ap	A		Ap	A	Ap	Ap	A	Ap	A
Pamela Bice										A	A	A
Delegates												
Michelle Becchio	A		Ap		Ap	Ap	A	A	A	A	Ap	
Louise Cairns	A	A	A	A	Ap	Ap	Ap	Ap	Ap			
Lesley Gillis			Ap	Ap		Ap	A	Ap	Ap	Ap	<i>P. Collins</i>	
Karen Skimmings			Ap	Ap		Ap	Ap					
Jule Manolas								A	A	Ap	A	Ap
Robyn Targa	Ap		A	A	A	Ap	Ap	A	Ap	Ap	A	Ap
Helen Zimic	Ap		A	A	Ap	A	Ap	A	Ap	A	Ap	A

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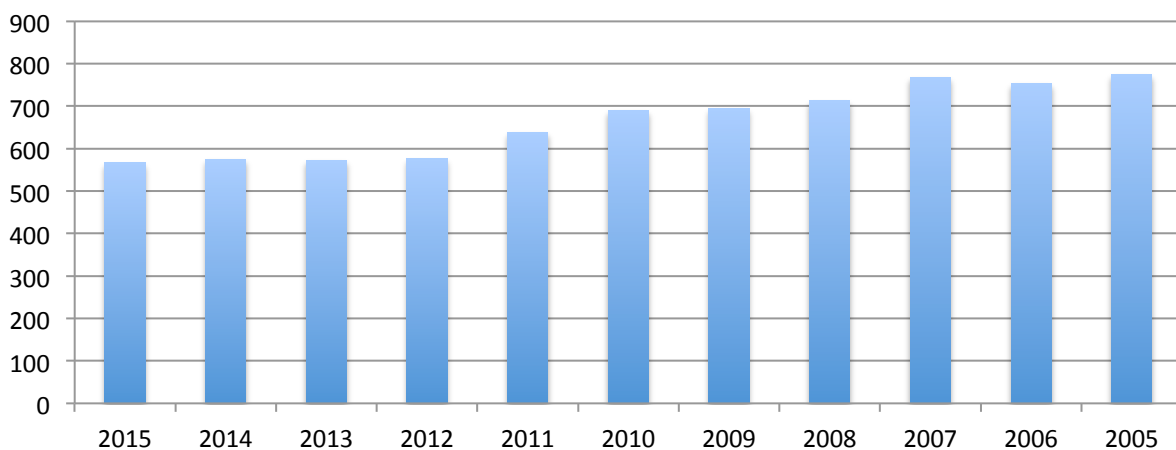
A Attended
 Ap Apology
 Not in attendance
 Not on Committee at the time

DNSW Membership Comparison

As at end June 2015

Members	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Ordinary members	445	452	449	457	512	565	585	596	650	635	639
Life & Hon Members	90	90	91	91	94	93	93	91	90	92	92
Junior	31	33	32	29	32	31	17	27	28	27	44
All Members	566	575	572	577	638	689	695	714	768	754	775
Other											
Affiliated											
Clubs/Organisations	56	57	53	55	54	55	53	53	53	52	52
CL subscribers	33	44	55	71	77	120	133	157	152	176	154
Total	655	676	680	703	769	864	881	924	973	982	981

All Members



CL subscribers

